

Message Text

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16

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 ACDA-05 PM-04 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1221

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UN, UR

SUBJECT: UN OUTER SPACE ISSUES: NEW SOVIET POLICY INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 061189

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON BORIS MAYORSKIY ON MARCH 15 TO DISCUSS
POINTS IN REFTEL AND TO LEAVE NON-PAPER INCORPORATING PARA 3.

2. MAYORSKIY REACTED INITIALLY WITH SURPRISE, SAYING THAT
THE SOVIETS HAVE NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE A "NEW INITIATIVE" IN
REMOTE SENSING. HE SAID THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE
FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMIT-
TEE ALREADY INCLUDED AN ITEM ON REMOTE SENSING, BASED ON AN
EARLIER SOVIET-FRENCH PROPOSAL AND A U.S. COUNTER PROPOSAL.
HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS STILL HOPED TO SEE THE PRINCIPLES
OF THEIR EARLIER DRAFT ACCEPTED AND HAD BEEN WORKING TO
ANSWER SOME OF THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE AMERICANS AND
OTHERS. THE POINTS RAISED IN THE BILATERAL MEETING IN
LONDON REFLECT SOVIET THINKING ON HOW THE ISSUE MAY BE
RESOLVED. BUT THEY DO NOT REPRESENT A NEW INITIATIVE,
HE REITERATED. SINCE THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE SUBJECT
WAS GENERALLY KNOWN, IT WOULD BE "AWKWARD", HE SAID, TO
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REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING ABOUT IT WHEN THE QUESTION COMES UP.

3. EMBOFF DREW ON THE REPORT OF THE RECENT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO UNDERLINE THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERED THAT MEETING USEFUL AND WISHED TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH COULD BE CAUSED BY PREMATURE PRESENTATION OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE SOVIET IDEA. WHETHER IT WAS CALLED A "NEW INITIATIVE" OR NOT, THIS MODIFICATION CARRIED BROAD IMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD REDIRECT THE FOCUS OF THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION. MAYORSKIY REPLIED THAT HE WAS "DELIGHTED" TO HEAR THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAD FOUND THE RECENT TALKS USEFUL, SINCE IT WAS THE CULMINATION OF THREE YEARS OF EFFORT BY HIM PERSONALLY TO PROMOTE SUCH A MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HELD REGULARLY IN THE EARLY PART OF EVERY YEAR TO ALLOW BOTH SIDES TO BETTER PREPARE FOR THE YEAR'S WORK. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SENSED SOME RELUCTANCE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE TO HOLD REGULAR CONSULTATIONS, BUT HE HOPED THAT THE USEFULNESS OF THE LONDON MEETING WOULD HELP TO PERSUADE THE U.S. SIDE THAT THE TWO MAJOR SPACE POWERS HAD A NUMBER OF AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS IN AREAS WHERE THEIR APPROACHES DIFFERED.

4. RETURNING TO THE ISSUE AT HAND, MAYORSKIY SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY OUR MESSAGE TO THE NECESSARY PEOPLE IN THE MFA AT ONCE, INCLUDING THE DELEGATION GOING TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK. BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ACHIEVING A SUBSTANTIAL REVISION IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS THIS NEAR TO THEIR DEPARTURE.

5. MAYORSKIY THEN SAID THAT THIS COMMENTS WERE TO BE TAKEN AS PRELIMINARY AND UNOFFICIAL. HE HOPED TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL REPLY BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. HE AGREED THAT IN ANY CASE THE TWO DELEGATIONS SHOULD MEET EARLY IN THE PROCEEDINGS TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM MAYORSKIY'S REMARKS THAT THE SOVIETS DID INTEND TO INTRODUCE THEIR DEFINITION ON THE DISSEMINATION OF DATA GATHERED BY REMOTE SENSING AT THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING. WHETHER THEY WILL BE DISSUADED
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BY OUR PRESENTATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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Message Attributes

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